

CLAIMS

1. A method for altering encryption status in a  
5 relational database in a continuous process, wherein at  
least one table of said database comprises at least one  
base area and at least one maintenance area, comprising  
the steps of:

10 copying all records from said base area to said  
maintenance area;  
directing action of commands intended for said base  
area to said maintenance area;  
altering encryption status of said base area;  
15 copying all data records from said maintenance area  
to said base area; and  
redirecting action of commands to said base area.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step  
of directing is implemented in a trigger which is added  
20 to said table.

3. A method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said  
commands are data manipulation language (DML) statements.

25 4. A method according to claim 1, wherein each base  
area in said database table have a corresponding  
maintenance area.

5. A method according to claim 1, comprising the  
30 further step of:  
emptying said maintenance area.

6. A method according to claim 1, comprising the  
further step of:  
35 emptying said base area before said step of  
altering.

09712925 "111600

5           8. A method according to claim 1, comprising the  
further step of.  
          changing the data type of said base area.

10. A method for altering encryption status in a relational database in a continuous process, wherein at least one table of said database comprises at least one base area, and for each base area a corresponding area, comprising the steps of:

25           11. A method according to claim 10, wherein said  
base area is a first column of said table and said  
maintenance area is a second column of said table.

12. A method for altering encryption status in a relational database in a continuous process, wherein at least one table of said database comprises at least one base column and at least one maintenance column, comprising the steps of:

2000-11-09 11:10 G:\PAR\MNN\Ans\Protegrity ansökningar\2006676 Continuous encryption  
(9)\2006676 US (P) (Inv 9 Continuous encryption) för USA.doc

altering encryption status of said base column;  
copying all data records from said maintenance  
column to said base column; and  
redirecting action of commands to said base column.

5

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein said  
step of directing is implemented in a trigger which is  
added to said table.

10

14. A method according to claim 12 ~~or 13~~, wherein  
said commands are data manipulation language (DML)  
statements.

15

15. A method according to claim 12, wherein each  
base column in said database table have a corresponding  
maintenance column.